

CLAIMS

1. A method of managing a cabling system including the steps of:  
providing one or more cables with a machine readable identifier;  
5 providing one or more locations with a machine readable location identifier;  
locating the cable or cables at one or more of said locations; and,  
reading by machine said cable identifier or identifiers and said location identifier or  
identifiers, generating a list of cable locations based on the read identifiers and storing said  
list for later retrieval.

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2. The method of claim 1, wherein the or each cable is provided with a cable  
identifier at each terminal thereof and the list generated includes data for determining cable  
connections from the cable identifiers.

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3. The method of claim 1, wherein the or each cable is provided with the same  
identifier at each of its terminals.

4. The method of claim 1, including the step of providing a hand-held device  
for machine reading the cable and location identifiers.

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5. The method of claim 4, including providing a central processor connectable  
with the hand-held machine for the download of read identifiers, a master list being stored  
within the central processor.

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6. The method of claim 5, including providing a connection of the hand-held  
machine to the central processor which is wireless.

7. The method of claim 1, including the step of identifying components from  
the cable and location identifiers, the list including data relating to the components and  
30 thereby of the connections between components.

8. The method of claim 1, including the step of identifying changes that have occurred in the recorded connections within a specified period of time.

5 9. The method of claim 1, including the step of integrating data and voice configuration information into a structured cabling and equipment browser to provide a single view of all information related to the structured cabling channel and services provided.

10 10. A cabling management system including a machine readable cable identifier for use with one or more cables, a machine readable location identifier for use at one or more locations, an identifier reading device operable to machine read said cable identifier or identifiers and said location identifier or identifiers and to generate a list of cable locations based on the read identifiers, and machine readable memory means operable to store said list for later retrieval.

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11. The system of claim 10, wherein a cable identifier is provided at each terminal of a cable and the list generated includes data for determining cable connections from the cable identifiers.

20 12. The system of claim 11, wherein each cable is provided with the same identifier at each of its terminals.

13. The system of claim 10, wherein the identifier reading device is a hand-held device.

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14. The system of claim 10, further comprising a central processor connectable with the hand-held device for the download of read identifiers, a master list being stored in a machine readable memory accessible to, or within, the central processor.

30 15. The system of claim 14, wherein the connection of the hand-held device to the central processor is wireless.

16. The system of claim 14, wherein the central processor is operable to identify components from the cable and location identifiers, the stored list including data relating to the components and thereby of the connections between components.

5 17. The system of claim 14, wherein the central processor is operable to identify changes that have occurred in the recorded connections within a specified period of time.

10 18. The system of claim 14, wherein the central processor is operable to integrate data and voice configuration information into a structured cabling and equipment browser to provide a single view of all information related to the structured cabling channel and services provided.

15 19. A system for managing a structured cabling system including:  
machine-readable identifiers; one or more hand-held devices equipped with a  
machine-readable identifier reader to record moves and changes by scanning port and cable  
identifiers; one or more computer readable memories for storing details of equipment, its  
location and type in a relational database on the hand-held scanners and a PC system;  
means for synchronising the hand-held databases with a desktop system or server so that  
20 changes made on any system are recorded on all systems; and wireless local area network  
technology to synchronise the hand-held system database with the desktop system or  
server.

25 20. A method of recording or auditing connections in a structured cabling system including the steps of: labelling both ends of each patch cord with same identifier,  
the identifiers being unique for all patch cords; labelling each port in the cross connect  
with a unique identifier; using a hand-held scanner to record sequentially the identifiers of  
each port and the identifiers of the cable connected to it; inferring which ports are  
connected together by correlating the identifiers on the cables without the need to trace the  
30 physical cables; and utilising a one-click approach to making, breaking and auditing  
connections optimised for the changing of connections in patch-panels.